

THE CLAIMS

1. A file including a support member with an abrasive surface at least partially coated with a sanitizing agent that is released upon using the file and maintains its effective sanitizing activity for at least 3 months after the coating.
2. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is oil based.
3. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is a citrus fruit extract.
4. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is incorporated in a slurry of adhesive and granular abrasive particulates.
5. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is contained within microcapsules that are frangible and break upon use of the file to release the sanitizing agent.
6. The file of Claim 1 where the abrasive surface comprises granular abrasive particulates with interstices between the particulates that are filled with the sanitizing agent.
7. The file of Claim 6 where the particulates have a size ranging from 40 to 1200 grit.
8. The file of Claim 6 where the particulates are silicon carbide, aluminium oxide, silica, or zirconia.
9. The file of Claim 1 where the support member is paper, plastic film, plastic foam, metal, or fabric.
10. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is a fungicide.

11. The file of Claim 10 where the fungicide is itraconazole, terbinafine, or fluconazole.
12. The file of Claim 1 where the sanitizing agent is a germicide.
13. The file of Claim 12 where the germicide is dimethyl benzyl, ethyl benzyl, gasoline, or pine oil.
14. The file of Claim 5 where the microcapsules have a diameter ranging between 12 and 50 microns.
15. The file of Claim 5 where the microcapsules comprises a generally hollow spherical shell having a wall with a thickness ranging between 1/50 and 1/200 microns.
16. The file of Claim 1 where
- (a) the sanitizing agent is oil based mixed with a liquid carrier which dissolves the sanitizing agent,
 - (b) the sanitizing agent-liquid carrier is applied to the abrasive surface, and
 - (c) the carrier is removed to leave a residual coating of sanitizing agent on the abrasive surface.
17. A file including
- a support member having a surface to which adhere granular abrasive particulates having a size ranging from 40 to 1200 grit to provided interstices between at least some of the particulates, and
 - a coating applied to said surface which has dispersed therein an adhesive and microcapsules that contain a sanitizing agent, said coating being dried to deposit in said interstices the microcapsules, with the adhesive binding the microcapsules to said surface,
 - said microcapsules being frangible and breaking upon use of the file to release the sanitizing agent.

18. The file of Claim 17 where the sanitizing agent is a fungicide, a germicide, or a mixture of both.

19. A file including

5 a support member having a surface to which adhere granular abrasive particulates having a size ranging from 40 to 1200 grit, and

10 a coating comprising a mixture of sanitizing agent is mixed with a liquid carrier, said coating being applied to said surface and then removing the carrier to leave sanitizing agent on the abrasive surface, with said sanitizing agent being released upon using the file.

20. The file of Claim 19 where the sanitizing agent is a fungicide, a germicide, or a mixture of both.

21. The file of Claim 19 where the sanitizing agent comprises from 1 to 20 weight percent of the mixture and the liquid carrier comprises from 99 to 80 weight percent of the mixture.

22. A file including a wooden support member having a film with an abrasive surface at least partially coated with a sanitizing agent that is released upon using the file and maintains its effective sanitizing activity for at least 3 months after the coating.

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23. A method of treating a human nail to inhibit or prevent infection comprising

30 (a) filing the nail with a file including a support member having an abrasive surface, said surface coated with a sanitizing agent that is released upon use of the file, and

(b) applying sufficient pressure during filing to release the sanitizing agent, so that said sanitizing agent contacts the nail being filed.

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24. The method of Claim 23 where the sanitizing agent is contained within microcapsules that are frangible and break upon use of the file to release the sanitizing agent.

5 25. The method of Claim 23 the sanitizing agent is a fungicide, a germicide, or a mixture of both.

26. The method of Claim 25 where the fungicide is itraconazole, terbinafine, or fluconazole.

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27. The method of Claim 25 where the germicide is dimethyl benzyl, ethyl benzyl, gasoline, or pine oil.

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28. The method of Claim 25 where the abrasive surface is a coated with a mixture comprising a sanitizing agent and a liquid carrier and then the carrier is removed to leave the sanitizing agent on the abrasive surface, with said sanitizing agent being released upon using the file.

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29. The method of Claim 28 where the sanitizing agent comprises from 1 to 100 weight percent of the mixture and the liquid carrier comprises from 0 to 99 weight percent of the mixture.

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